

**MINUTES**  
**BROWN COUNTY TRANSPORTATION COORDINATING COMMITTEE**  
**Monday, June 8, 2009**  
**Green Bay Metro Transportation Center**  
**901 University Avenue**  
**Green Bay, Wisconsin**  
**9:45 a.m.**

**ROLL CALL**

Sunny Archambault	<u>          x          </u>	Nick Mahlik	<u>          x          </u>
Betty Bennett	<u>          x          </u>	Byia Martin	<u>          x          </u>
Linda Blohowiak	<u>          x          </u>	Barbara Natelle	<u>                        </u>
Diana Brown	<u>          x          </u>	Jennifer Nelson	<u>          x          </u>
Brandon Cooper	<u>                        </u>	Sandy Popp	<u>          x          </u>
Chris Culotta	<u>          Exc.        </u>	Cole Runge	<u>          x          </u>
Pat Finder-Stone	<u>          x          </u>	Jayne Sellen	<u>          x          </u>
Chris Hasselbacher	<u>          x          </u>	Julie Tetzlaff	<u>          x          </u>
Kathy Hillary	<u>                        </u>	Mary Van Acker	<u>                        </u>
Kathy Johnson	<u>          Exc.        </u>	Vacant – BC Board	<u>                        </u>

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Kim Chong, Lisa J. Conard, Sue Premo, and Steve Rosenbaum.

**ORDER OF BUSINESS**

1. Approval of the March 9, 2009, Transportation Coordinating Committee meeting minutes.

A motion was made by B. Bennett, seconded by P. Finder-Stone, to approve the March 9, 2009, Transportation Coordinating Committee meeting minutes. Motion carried.

2. Update on meetings with representatives of St. Mary's Hospital, Bellin Hospital, and Medi-Vans about post-appointment rides for disabled patients.

C. Runge stated that he and Pat Finder-Stone met with area hospital administrators in March of 2009 to discuss post-appointment transportation services, particularly those trips provided by Medi-Vans under contract with Green Bay Metro. A second meeting was held in May of 2009 with hospital administrators and Steve Rosenbaum to discuss specific actions that could be taken to address post-appointment pick-ups.

C. Runge stated the meeting participants addressed how to deal with a client's pick-up reservation if an appointment runs late due to unanticipated tests, etc.

S. Rosenbaum stated that if a client is not ready at the scheduled pick-up time, the driver will come back later, but this could mean a long wait for the client.

S. Rosenbaum stated that clients could also be ready at the original pick-up time, but are waiting at the wrong entrance/exit. This creates delay and other scheduling problems for Medi-Vans staff.

C. Runge stated that the meeting participants discussed designating a single entrance/exit at all medical facilities for van drop-offs/pick-ups.

S. Rosenbaum stated that Medi-Vans does this for trips to and from Bay Park Square mall. He stated that this is also a system that works well at the Medical College of Wisconsin in Milwaukee.

J. Nelson stated that the Red Cross does this as well.

Committee members suggested that a lanyard or bracelet be given to the client indicating that they will be picked up by Medi-Vans after their appointments.

S. Rosenbaum stated it may be difficult for a driver to place a lanyard or bracelet on a passenger.

J. Nelson stated that Red Cross gives its clients a card that states "Lakeland Chapter of the American Red Cross" accompanied by the phone number so the client or staff member can call and let Red Cross staff know if they will be running late. However, many of Medi-Vans clients are non-verbal and may not be able to communicate that they are scheduled to be picked up by Medi-Vans.

C. Runge explained that most facilities have concierge services. Often the concierge acts as the first and the last point of contact for a client. Perhaps coordination can occur here.

B. Bennett asked about the prioritization of trips.

S. Rosenbaum stated that the ADA and paratransit contract require Medi-Vans to accept all paratransit trip requests. The type of issue we are dealing with today is primarily associated with medical trips. Shopping trips, for example, go smoothly, as the client sets the drop-off and pick-up time.

C. Runge thanked P. Finder-Stone for making the arrangements to meet with hospital administrators.

The administrators will be discussing this issue with their staffs.

L. Blohowiak agreed that it will be up to each facility to work this out with staff and support this effort to improve post-appointment transportation.

B. Martin asked if the Medi-Vans drivers had any insight to solving the problem.

S. Rosenbaum stated that he would be meeting with the drivers this week and would discuss this issue.

S. Rosenbaum stated that Medi-Vans staff is currently collecting post-appointment and hospital discharge information to determine if there are any common problems.

B. Bennett stated that she supports this initiative.

C. Runge suggested that if timely pick-up trips cannot be made that the hospital could consider contracting with a private provider to provide demand-response trips or consider making a van available for hospital volunteers to drive the clients home.

C. Runge will be in contact with hospital administrators and report back at the next meeting.

3. Discussion of developing a transportation coalition in Brown County.

C. Runge stated that he and L. Conard met with Forward Service Foundation staff and the Brown County Mobility Manager to discuss the formation of a transportation coalition in Brown County.

The coalition would bring together representatives from area groups that address transportation issues, and it could be responsible for identifying transportation needs and possible methods of meeting the needs.

S. Archambault asked if that was the role of the TCC.

C. Runge stated that the TCC tends to address transportation for the elderly and persons with disabilities. The coalition would deal with all types of transportation, including employment-related trips.

C. Runge stated he envisions groups such as the Brown County Housing and Homeless Coalition and Bay Area Community Council to participate in the coalition.

L. Blohowiak stated that she is a member of the Northeast Wisconsin Regional Access to Transportation (NEWRATT) Committee, and the committee looks at transportation on a regional level.

C. Runge stated that a member of NEWRATT could serve on the coalition.

C. Runge stated that Forward Service Foundation staff and the Mobility Manager for Brown County would be discussing the creation of the coalition with potential members in the coming weeks.

4. Other matters.

S. Archambault asked about the status of the RTA.

J. Sellen stated that the state Joint Finance Committee removed the RTA for the Fox Valley from the governor's budget proposal. The Green Bay area was not included in the Governor's budget.

The Legislative Council Special Committee on Regional Transportation Authorities has recommended a RTA for the Fox Valley and Green Bay. If included in the state budget, it will likely be written so that a referendum would need to take place locally to determine the level of support for a RTA.

C. Runge explained that the "100 bus exemption," if included as part of the next transportation law, would allow Green Bay Metro to receive federal operating assistance after the 2010 census when the Green Bay Urbanized Area will likely have a population of 200,000 or more. If it is not included, Green Bay Metro could be facing a \$550,000 deficit.

C. Runge stated that the need for a RTA will still exist even with the exemption because Green Bay Metro has experienced, and will likely continue to experience, decreases in the proportion of combined federal and state operating assistance.

C. Runge stated he was pleased to see that Larry Delo, administrator for the City of De Pere, has been advocating for a RTA in the Green Bay area. Outside of staff, it is important that individuals from the area champion the cause.

S. Popp asked about the status of the closed captioned version of the "How to Ride the Bus" video on Green Bay Metro's website.

C. Runge stated that Tim Hennig left the Planning Department in April and that the new GIS Planner will look into this in July.

S. Popp stated that she is aware of several local private transportation providers that no longer are accepting MA-subsidized trips. This is due to the low reimbursement rate.

Committee members agreed that this is an issue facing citizens of Brown County and elsewhere.

J. Sellen agreed to look into the amount of funding dedicated to specialized transportation in the state budget. J. Sellen will share this information with C. Runge in the near future.

C. Runge set the date of the next Transportation Coordinating Committee for 9:45 a.m. on Monday, September 14, at the Green Bay Metro Transportation Center located at 901 University Avenue.

5. Adjourn.

C. Runge closed the meeting at 10:45 a.m.